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Nr. 34 666

20 June 1966

TO: Herrn CASTROP
FROM: 831
SUBJECT: Final Evaluation of WUESTEFELD, RECHENBERG, and
CHRISTMANN
REFERENCE: GAMMA/CASTROP, Nr. 50/66, 21 April 1966

A. Since no officer of EOS has ever been in contact with WUESTEFELD, we are unable to make an assessment of her. To the best of our knowledge, she is now married to an American bush pilot and has probably departed the area.

B. In the case of RECHENBERG, also no member of EOS has had any opportunity to meet him personally, either in Europe or elsewhere. It is therefore, of course, not possible to provide anything more than an evaluation based on such records as were available, including the recent TU. From what we have seen, we have gained the impression that RECHENBERG is inclined very much to picture himself as an established old school intelligence operator, although his operating methods lack sophistication and are actually those of a SD man of 25 years ago, being crude, unsophisticated, and in the light of present day conditions, insecure. His ability to survive the change of regimes in Algeria - and to survive, so to speak, with all his assets intact--would indicate the likelihood of collaboration with the Algerian local service. His ability to maintain a large array of personal and pseudo-official contacts with German

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industrialists and financiers, when seen in the light of his own position, gives rise to the assumption that he may be providing all these contacts with economic information on the Mahgreb in general and Algeria in particular. It appears that Subject is "a man in business for what it will bring" rather than a member of a disciplined team.

C. CHRISTMANN appears to be a very complex personality who is greatly influenced by the historical, political, and economic developments of his early life. He is fairly typical of the European phenomenon encountered frequently among persons whose allegiances, intellectual, personal and emotional, have changed due to adjustments in national boundaries and changes in regimes, (a phenomenon which we will, for lack of a better expression, call "ethnic ambivalence"). These varied ethnic, political and environmental influences appear in the case of CHRISTMANN to have produced an individual without basic roots who suffers from, and is seriously frustrated by, the lack of an active outlet for his ambitions, which are based on his special bilingual talents and his ethnic ambivalence. These ambitions seem to have been satisfied for the first time in his life when he served in the Abwehr (here he was working for Germany - the country of his ethnic origin - and against the French - the country of his political origin.) The resulting inner confusion within the man's character is possibly best demonstrated by the fact that in one sense he feels himself personally more closely allied to France. This is in part indicated by the fact that he twice married French women

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although neither marriage was successful and the fact that he twice chose German careers, i.e., successively with the Abwehr and GAMMA. The German employment and his internment by the French heightened a feeling of growing animosity toward the French, an aspect of his official personality. Later CHRISTMANN again found satisfaction in working for the Ministry of All-German Affairs in the politically-subjugated SAAR. His move to Tunis at the end of that employment to work once again against the French colonial administration seems to evidence his desire to use his French background to his own advantage in behalf of Germany's interests. In a sense, this found its culmination in his eventual association with GAMMA as a follow-up to his earlier career with the Abwehr. However, just as his inter-personal relationship, as well as all previous attempts to establish himself, ended in serious frustrations, so was this career frustrated when CHRISTMANN's self-styled expertise in French affairs was apparently "not fully appreciated" by his German employers. As a result of his ethnic ambivalence he considered one of his greatest personal assets to be his imagined expertise in Franco-German relations. In fact, this very factor turned out to be more of a hindrance than an asset, not only in his personal life (ruined marriage), but also his official life (loss of jobs). For some time he appeared to hold out high hopes for successes on the strength of this

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particular combination of attributes. However, with the eventual Algerian independence his private worlds seemed to collapse. His attempts to exploit his work for the former Algerian rebels in independent and official Algiers met with disaster in the form of arrest and expulsion for reasons which were neither clear to him, nor are they for that matter, quite clear to us. The treatment he received at the hands of the Algerians was not only physically distasteful and economically disastrous, but produced in him a tremendous psychological shock. At age 60, with a heart condition, he found himself with a young wife and a ten-year old daughter, without a job, without prospects of a job, faced with unsympathetic German employers. He became painfully aware that he was not considered a great expert by any of his associates and that further rationalization of his position was useless. He now appears to be a very subdued and apprehensive individual who is willing to cooperate simply for a chance to survive.

831

FILE: [RECHENBERG] (155)
[CHRISTMANN, Richard
(NUSTEFELD) (RI)

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